

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/533,141

Applicant(s)

OKAMURA, JUN-ICHI

Examiner

Diana J. Cheng

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/13/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendments and arguments, see pages 1-9 of amendment and remarks, filed 09/13/2007, with respect to claims 1-4 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-4 has been withdrawn. As requested by applicant, claims 5-10 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Referring to claim 1, the prior art references taken alone or in combination, does not disclose, teach, or fairly suggest a switching circuit comprising a current supply circuit that supplies a given current to the loads connected in series with the differential element when the differential element is off and that has an end connected to a connection node between said loads and said differential element and that has another end connected to a connection node between said differential element and said constant current source; and used in combination with all other limitations of claim 1. The aspects as summarized above are neither anticipated nor obviated by the prior art of record.

Referring to claim 2, the prior art references taken alone or in combination, does not disclose, teach, or fairly suggest a switching circuit comprising a current supply circuit that comprises a first current supply circuit that supplies a given current to the first and second loads when the first differential element is off, said first current supply

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circuit having a first current supply circuit end and another first current supply circuit end, said first current supply circuit end being connected to a first connection node between said first loads and said second loads and said first differential element, said other first current supply circuit end being connected to a second connection node between said first differential element and said first constant current source; and

a second current supply circuit that supplies the given current to the third and fourth loads when the second differential element is off, said second current supply circuit having a second current supply circuit end and another second current supply circuit end, said second current supply circuit end being connected to a third connection node between said third loads and said fourth loads and said second differential element, said other second current supply circuit end being connected to a fourth connection node between said second differential element and said second constant current source; and used in combination with all other limitations of claim 2. The aspects as summarized above are neither anticipated nor obviated by the prior art of record.

Therefore, claims 1-4 are currently allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diana J. Cheng whose telephone number is (571) 270-1197. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30am-5:00 pm, alt. Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew N. Richards can be reached on (571) 272-1736. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



DJC
09/25/2007



TUAN T. LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER